Need for labour intensive economic development policy

†*134. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now there is a need to adopt labour intensive economic development policy in the country;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has prepared the draft of any new policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outline of the proposed draft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Economic development policy in India is reflected in the planning process. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims at achieving faster and inclusive growth, for which the generation of productive and gainful employment with decent working conditions on sufficient scale to absorb the growing labour force is a critical strategy. Two draft policies namely, the National Employment Policy and the National Skill Development Policy have been prepared to address employment and skill development related issues.

Weekly dissemination of price based on WPI

*135. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to discontinue weekly dissemination of prices based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A Working Group for the revision of Wholesale Price Index (WPI), has been set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission for revision of the current WPI series from the base year 1993-94 to 2004-05. The Working Group in its Technical Report submitted to the Government in May 2008, has recommended switching over from existing weekly dissemination to monthly release of WPI in respect of the new series with base year 2004-05. The Working Group felt that switching over to a monthly Index would improve the quality of the Index, since longer period is likely to improve the response rate through better scrutiny and follow up. Further, the Working Group has suggested that a weekly commodity index for primary commodities and fuel group may be generated for monitoring the prices without adversely affecting the integrity of the price data. A final decision to move to a monthly WPI in the new series is yet to be taken. The weekly dissemination of the existing series will continue till a final decision to move to the new series is taken.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.